

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW FLASH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14430

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: EXCLUSIVE MRS. GANDHI INTERVIEW

1. THE NEW DELHI PRESS OCTOBER 27 CONTINUES ITS GENERAL TONE OF WELCOME FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT DESCRIBED IN OUR LAST PRESS WRAP UP OCTOBER 25. ARTICLES PICKED UP THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S WARM LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, WHICH WAS RELEASED BY THE GOI. STORIES TENDED TO PICK OUT SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH MIGHT DISCUSSED INCLUDING THE PROSPECTS FOR GREATER TRADE, US MILITARY SALES POLICY, AND THE US DESIRE FOR A RESPONSIBLE INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY. THE PRO-CONGRESS NATIONAL HERALD, HOWEVER, CARRIES EXCERPTS RELATING TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT FROM AN EXCLUSIVE HOUR LONG INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI (THE FULL TEXT WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY ON OCTOBER 29, THE DAY MRS GANDHI LEAVES NEW DELHI FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO KASHMIR).

2. ASKED ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, THE FULL TEXT OF MRS. GANDHI'S REPLY IS: "DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT IS BROADLY A GOODWILL VISIT AND I CERTAINLY HOPE IT WILL GENERATE MORE GOODWILL. INDIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND NATURALLY THE US IS A VERY IMPORTANT COUNTRY WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED. NOR DO WE WISH TO IGNORE IT. WE HAVE ALWAYS TRIED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEM. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAVE REGARDED

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INDIA AS MARGINAL TO THEIR GLOBAL STRATEGY. SO IT IS REALLY

FOR THEM TO THINK OUT THIS."

3. "THEY GIVE VARIOUS REASONS FOR THEIR ATTITUDE. FIRST THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE GOING TO SAVE US FROM COMMUNISM AND SAVE US FROM CHINA AND THEN THEY WERE THE ONES WHO BECAME COMPLETELY PRO-CHINESE. DURING THE BANGLADESH CRISIS WE WERE TOLD THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO SPOIL THEIR DETENTE WITH CHINA AND THEREFORE THEY COULD NOT BE FRIENDLY BECAUSE PAKISTAN WAS ACTING AS THE BRIDGE. NOW, ALL THESE REASONS SEEM TO US RATHER PECULIAR. THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH US DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA OR ANYBODY ELSE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WITHOUT INDIA, THIS WHOLE REGION CANNOT BE STABLE AND CANNOT REALLY MAKE PROGRESS. AND WE CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH PAKISTAN. WE ARE A MUCH BIGGER COUNTRY, WE FACE FAR BIGGER DANGERS. ALL OUR PROBLEMS ARE ON A FAR MORE GIGANTIC SCALE.

4. THERE IS A LOT OF CONTROVERSY ABOUT WHETHER WE HAVE ASKED FOR SOMETHING. WE HAVE NO NOTIONS OF FALSE PRESTIGE. IF WE NEED SOMETHING, I HAVE NO HESITATION IN ASKING FOR IT, AND THIS IS NOT BEGGING ALTHOUGH THEY ARE USING THE WORD IN REGARD TO OUR COUNTRY. THE WORD IS NOT USED WITH REGARD TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BUT ONLY WITH REGARD TO INDIA. WE HAVE RECEIVED HELP FROM THEM IN THE PAST AND IF THEY WISH TO HELP US IN THE FUTURE--IF IT IS IN AREAS WHICH WE NEED--WE SHALL ACCEPT IT, BUT THEY HAVE TO DECIDE THEIR POLICIES."

5. NYTIMES CORRESPONDENT HAS ALREADY CALLED AND ASKED ABOUT THE INTERVIEW AND WE ANTICIPATE GETTING MORE QUERIES AS THE DAY GOES ON. WE ARE, OF COURSE, OFFERING NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER.

6. FOR MOSCOW: PLEASE CONFIRM THIS HAS BEEN SEEN BY THE SECRETARY'S PARTY. SCHNEIDER

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